

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CPR-02

SSC-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 291852Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9502

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE - CLAUDE
PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE

1. SUMMARY. FOR HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, GISCARD HAS CHOSEN
A CLOSE FRIEND AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE WITH
IMPECCABLE STAFF CREDENTIALS WHO HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE
CAREER IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY. BROSSOLETTE IS CAPABLE,
BOTH AS A BUREAUCRAT AND AS AN ECONOMIST, BUT HIS MAJOR
CLAIM TO HIS NEW POST SEEMS TO BE GISCARD'S CONFIDENCE
IN HIM. BROSSOLETTE IS WELL KNOWN IN AMERICAN AND
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES. US OFFICIALS HAVE
FOUND HIM RELATIVELY SATISFACTORY TO DEAL WITH. END
SUMMARY.

2. CLAUDE PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE, 46, IS A LONG-TIME
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PERSONAL FRIEND OF GISCARD AND HAS BEEN PROFESSIONALLY

CLOSE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT SINCE 1962, WHEN HE SERVED BRIEFLY AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GISCARD'S CABINET (THE DIRECTOR WAS PONIATOWSKI, NOW GISCARD'S PRINCIPAL POLITICAL LIEUTENANT), FOLLOWING GISCARD'S ELEVATION TO THE POST OF FINANCE MINISTER. AN INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE BUREAUCRAT, BROSSOLETTE NONETHELESS OWES HIS RISE TO THE TOP OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY BUREAUCRACY IN PART TO HIS TIES WITH GISCARD.

3. BROSSOLETTE'S ENTIRE CAREER HAS BEEN IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY, WHERE HIS PRINCIPAL SPECIALTY HAS BEEN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS. WHEN GISCARD RETURNED TO THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY IN 1969, HE MADE BROSSOLETTE HIS SENIOR STAFF ADVISER, THEN LATER (IN 1971) APPOINTED HIM TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE TREASURY, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND SENSITIVE POSITIONS THAT A CAREER OFFICIAL CAN OCCUPY IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY. (THE TREASURY'S MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE DEBT MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL MARKETS, PUBLIC LENDING AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.) SINCE 1972, BROSSOLETTE HAS SERVED AS ONE OF THE TWO FRENCH DEPUTIES IN THE IMF COMMITTEE OF TWENTY THAT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE MONETARY REFORM NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CAPACITY, HE HAS HAD AN IMPORTANT, BUT NOT DECISIVE, ROLE IN FORMULATING FRENCH POSITIONS ON MONETARY REFORM.

4. AS FRENCH BUREAUCRATS GO, BROSSOLETTE IS RELATIVELY OPEN TO NEW IDEAS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING THEN FINANCE MINISTER DEBRE TO DO AWAY WITH FRENCH EXCHANGE CONTROLS AT THE BEGINNING OF 1967, AN EXPERIMENT WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WAS BROUGHT TO AN EARLY END BY THE EVENTS OF MAY-JUNE 1968. HIS STYLE TENDS TO BE LOW-KEY, AND HIS REACTIONS TO MOST ISSUES ARE SPRINKLED WITH A CONSIDERABLE DOSE OF SKEPTICISM. MOST US OFFICIALS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HIM HAVE FOUND HIM RELATIVELY SATISFACTORY IN ATTITUDE AND STYLE, EVEN

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IN ADVERSARY SITUATIONS.

5. BROSSOLETTE'S POLITICAL LEANINGS ARE TOWARDS GISCARD'S INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY. IN THE ELECTION OF JUNE 1968, HE RAN FOR THE ASSEMBLY ON THAT TICKET IN A PARIS SUBURBAN DISTRICT (SARCELLES), BUT LOST TO THE GAULLIST CANDIDATE.

6. WITH BOTH A LICENCE IN LAW AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES, BROSSOLETTE STUDIED AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION (1950-52) AND OPTED FOR A CAREER IN THE INSPECTORATE OF FINANCE. IN 1956, HE MOVED OUT OF THE RANKS OF THE INSPECTORATE TO TAKE A POSITION AS STAFF ADVISER IN THE CABINET OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE MINISTER RAMADIER. AFTER AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSIGNMENT IN WASHINGTON AS DEPUTY FINANCIAL COUNSELOR IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY (1957), HE RETURNED TO PARIS, WHERE HE FIRST SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (1958-60), THEN IN THE CABINET OF FINANCE MINISTER BAUMGARTNER (1960-62), AND THEN IN GISCARD'S CABINET (1962). IN THE PERIOD 1963-67 HE WAS AGAIN ASSIGNED TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY, HEADING UP THE WORK IN THIS AREA AFTER THE DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL FINANCE WAS MERGED WITH THE DIRECTORATE OF THE TREASURY IN 1965. FROM 1967-71 HE WAS ON LOAN TO THE BANK OF FRANCE, WHERE HE SERVED AS

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT COUNCIL, AND WAS THUS IN EFFECT ONE OF THE GOVERNOR'S PRINCIPAL ADVISERS ON MONETARY POLICY. DURING THE LATTER PART OF THAT ASSIGNMENT HE ALSO WAS WORKING DIRECTLY FOR GIS-CARD AS SENIOR STAFF ADVISER IN THE LATTER'S CABINET.

7. SON OF RESISTANCE HERO PIERRE BROSSOLETTE AND FORMER CENTRIST SENATOR GILBERTE BROSSOLETTE, HE IS HIMSELF A RESISTANCE MEDAL-HOLDER. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.
IRWIN

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